(d) and (e) In order to cater to the increased demand of LPG, in addition to the locations pending from the previous marketing plans, 38 new LPG distributorships have been included in the approved LPG marketing Plan 1996—98.

CNG Filling Facilities

2748. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether oil companies have been directed to provide a network of CNG filling facilities widely all over the country;

(b) how many outlets are there of Indian Oil Coroporation supplying CNG for motor vehicles;

(c) whether any efforts has been made to popularise CNG;

(d) the number of CNG outlets will be opened in Andhra Pradesh in 1998-99; and

(e) the details of plans of Government to utilise the public sector oil companies to popularise CNG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) No, Sir. It is possible to supply CNG only where natural gas pipeline supply is avialbale. At present, CNG is being supplied only in Mumbai, Vadodara, Surat and Delhi. The Gas Authority of India Limited has been directed provide a network of CNG filling facilities in Delhi. For this purpose, oil marketing companies have also been asked to identify some retails outlets.

(b) So far, there are five outlets of Indian Oil coporation supplying CNG for motor vehicles in Delhi, Mumbai and Vadodara.

(c) Yes, Sir. Publicity campaigns to popularise the use of CNG in cities where it is being marketed have been launched. In addition, lower rates of import duty of 5% are being levied on CNG conversion Kits which have to be imported.

(d) None.

(e) A few of the CNG on-line dispensing units are to be established at the existing retail outlets of the oil companeis.

Gas and Petrotanker Explosion in Guwahati

2749. Dr. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the ciricumstances that let to the recent gas and petrotanker explosion in Guwahati, details of casualty and total loss incurred;

(b) whether the concerned firm was handing those products without the authority and knowledge of IOC;

(c) if so, the steps contemplated for appropriate legal and preventive action; and

(d) the details of compensation and financial assistance extended to the victims of the tragedy and to their families by IOC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pending Proposals of Gas Agencies in Himachal Pradesh

2750. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals to set up 22 Gas agencies in Himachal Pradesh are pending with the Ministry since March, 1995;

(b) whether some other proposals to open 15 Gas Agencies in Himachal